HERPETOLOGIA

NOTES IN COLOMBIAN HERPETOLOGY, I: A NEW SNAKE OF THE GENUS *RHADINAEA*

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The following brief contribution to the Herpetology of Colombia is the first of a projected series which I hope to make under the auspices of the Instituto de Ciencias Naturales de la Universidad Nacional de Colombia and of the Commitee for Inter-American Artistic and Intellectual Relations. For the opportunity to make this and other studies I am indebted to the Director of the Instituto, Dr. Armando Dugand, and to the Committee. I also wish to make similar aknowledgements to Hermano Nicéforo Maria of the Instituto de La Salle for the privilege of being allowed to examine the specimens in his charge.

I hope to be able to make a revision of the whole group of Colombian snakes allied to *Rhadinaea*. I here offer only the description of a rather striking new form, which may be called

Rhadinaea antioquiensis sp. nov. ,

TYPE: An adult female in the collection of the Instituto de La Salle, Bogotá. Received in December, 1939.

TYPE LOCALITY: San Pedro, Antioquia, Colombia, alt. 2560 m.

RANGE: Known only from type locality.

DIAGNOSIS: A *Rhadinaea* with 19-17-15 scale rows; 7-8 upper labials; 169 ventrals; 60 caudals; tail 3 and ½ times in total length; brown above, white below; a dark vertebral streak; a dark lateral line bordered above by a white line; a light streak, bordered with dark, from eye to corner of mouth; allied to *serperaster* Cope of the mountains of Costa Rica and western Panamá, but with fewer stripes, and with reducing scale rows.

DESCRIPTION: dorsals 19-17-15, row four drops out at about 1/3 length of body back from head, paravertebrals drop out at 2/3 body length; ventrals 169; anal double; caudals (female) 60; preocular 1; postoculars 2 (left), 1 (right); temporals 1-2; upper labials 7 (left) third and fourth in eye, 8 (right) fourth and fifth in eye; maxillary teeth 19, increasing posteriorly, followed after a slight gap by two slightly enlarged fangs; head slightly distinct from neck; length 678 mm., tail 160 mm.; dark brown above, white below; a black line on vertebral row; a light line on adjacent edges of rows five and six (four and five posteriorly); a dark line on lower edge of row five (row four posteriorly); this striping extends onto tail; upper labials white spotted or edged with black; a light streak from eye to last labial, bordered above by a dark line from nostril to neck, bordered below by broken black spotting from eye to antepenultimate labial; throat and lower labials with black spot; two converging black lines on throat formed by spots near end of ventrals; caudals with black edges forming a dark median line.

REMARKS: The high dorsal count and the postocular white streak together induce me to think that this snake is the Colombian representative of *serperaster* of the massif on the Panamá-Costa Rica border, of *kinkelini* of Nicaragua, and of *godmani* of Guatemala. It is amply distinct from these in size, in reduction of dorsal scales, and in color.